Councilmembers:

KATHLEEN DREW, Chair  
KATE KELLY, Department of Commerce  
ROB DENGEL, Department of Ecology  
LENNY YOUNG, Department of Natural Resources  
STACEY BREWSTER, Utilities and Transportation Commission  
MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish & Wildlife

Assistant Attorney General:

JON THOMPSON

Local Government and Optional State Agencies for the Goose Prairie Project, Department of Transportation:

BILL SAURIOL

EFSEC Staff:

SONIA BUMPUS  
JOAN OWENS  
AMI HAFKEMEYER  
AMY MOON  
KYLE OVERTON  
JOE WOOD  
SEAN CHISHOLM

Also Present:

MARK MILLER, Chehalis Generation  
CHRIS SHERIN, Grays Harbor Energy Center  
JENNIFER GALBRAITH, PSE Horse Heaven  
MARSHALL SCHMITT, Columbia Generating Station  
OWEN HURD, Columbia Solar  
ERIC MELBARDIS, Kittitas Valley
LACEY, WASHINGTON; AUGUST 17, 2021

1:30 P.M.

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PROCEDINGS

CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon. This is Kathleen Drew, Chair of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and we are now beginning our August monthly meeting.

Ms. Owens, will you call the roll, please?

MS. OWENS: Department of Commerce?

MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, present.

MS. OWENS: Department of Ecology?

Department of Fish and Wildlife?

MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, present.

MS. OWENS: Department of Natural Resources?

MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young, present.

MS. OWENS: Utilities and Transportation Commission?

MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, present.

MS. OWENS: Local Government and Optional State Agencies for the Goose Prairie Project, Department of Transportation?

MR. SAURIOL: Bill Sauriol, present.

MS. OWENS: For the Horse Heaven Project,
Department of Agriculture?

Benton County?

Assistant Attorney General?

MR. THOMPSON: This is Jon Thompson, present.

MS. OWENS: Administrative Law Judge Johnette Sullivan?

Adam Torem?

For EFSEC Staff, Sonia Bumpus?

MS. BUMPUS: Joan, I'm present.

MS. OWENS: Ami Hafkemeyer?

MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.

MS. OWENS: Amy Moon?

MS. MOON: Amy Moon, present.

MS. OWENS: Kyle Overton?

MR. OVERTON: Kyle Overton, here.

MS. OWENS: Joe Wood?

MR. WOOD: Joe Wood, present.

MS. OWENS: Sean Chisholm?

MR. CHISHOLM: Sean Chisholm, present.

MS. OWENS: Patty Betts?

MS. BETTS: Present.

MS. OWENS: Stew Henderson?

Stephen Posner?

Is our court reporter on the line?
THE COURT REPORTER: Yes. This is Tayler Garlinghouse, present.

CHAIR DREW: And I do see Mr. Dengel from Department of Ecology on my list here now.

MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, present.

MS. OWENS: Great.

Moving on to operational updates, Kittitas Valley Wind Project?

Wild Horse Wind Power Project?

MS. GALBRAITH: Jennifer Galbraith, present.

MS. OWENS: Grays Harbor Energy Center?

(Unintelligible)

MS. OWENS: Was that Eric Melbardi I just heard?

I'll try again for Grays Harbor Energy Center?

MR. SHERIN: Chris Sherin is on the line for Grays Harbor Energy Center.

MS. OWENS: Thank you.

Chehalis Generation Facility?

Columbia Generating Station?


MS. OWENS: Columbia Solar?

MR. HURD: Owen Hurd, present.

MS. OWENS: Counsel for The Environment,
Bill Sherman?

Chair, there is a quorum for the EFSEC Council and the Goose Prairie and Horse Heaven Council.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Moving on to our proposed agenda. We have the proposed agenda before us. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda?

MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey Brewster.

I'll move we adopt the agenda.

CHAIR DREW: Second?

MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, second.

CHAIR DREW: Are there any proposed changes or comments?

Hearing none, all those in favor of adopting the agenda, please say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR DREW: Opposed? The agenda is adopted.

Moving on to the minutes. We have the meeting minutes from the July 20th, 2021 monthly meeting. You have them in draft form and have had a chance to review them. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, move to approve the minutes from July 20th, 2021.
MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, second.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

I do have a couple of minor corrections that I wanted to see changed in the minutes. On page 23, from between lines 17 and 24, there was conversation with Ami Hafkemeyer, and in the minutes referred to as A-m-y. She is -- spells her name A-m-i, so I would like to see that corrected on page 23.

And then on page 25, on line 10, there's a reference to the transmission work group and the SEPA. Unfortunately, I did not explain what I was saying in the words, but this is actually not S-E-P-A but C-E-S-A, and refers to the Compatible Energy Siting Assessment, which is a contract which we are working with the Department of Commerce on, funded by the Department of Defense. So if we can change the letters there from S-E-P-A to C-E-S-A, I'd appreciate it.

Are there any other changes or corrections?

Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the minutes as amended, please say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR DREW: Opposed? Minutes are approved as amended. Thank you all.

Moving on to our facility updates. We will start with Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.
MR. MELBARDIS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, EFSEC Council, and Staff. This is Eric Melbardis with EDP Renewables for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project. During the month of July, I had nothing nonroutine to report. The only thing out of the ordinary was my annual TAC report, TAC update email that was sent, although that is an annual routine function of our project.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Mr. Melbardis. I'm glad you're on the line. I did have a question for you. I see on your report that it was a capacity factor of 63.43 percent.

MR. MELBARDIS: Yes, we had --

CHAIR DREW: I'm not sure I -- I'm not sure I've ever seen the facility at that high a capacity level.

MR. MELBARDIS: Yes, it's been quite a windy summer season for us. We've been near capacity the whole time. And it's a good kind of wind because it's not too high where it stops our turbines so...

CHAIR DREW: Great.

MR. MELBARDIS: Yes, we're doing well.

Doing well here.

CHAIR DREW: Great. Thank you.

Moving on to Wild Horse Wind and Solar
Facility.

MS. GALBRAITH: Yes. Thank you, Chair Drew, Councilmembers, and Staff. This is Jennifer Galbraith with Puget Sound Energy at the Wild Horse Wind Facility. The only nonroutine item I have from the month of July is that the renewable energy center or our visitor's center opened to the public on July 1st. Additional safety protocols have been implemented based on Washington State and L&I guidelines as well as specific PSE policies regarding COVID-19 to provide a safe environment for our employees, guests, and others that visit the facility.

CHAIR DREW: Are you requiring that guests wear masks when they're in the facility?

MS. GALBRAITH: We are strongly recommending that in spite of the -- your vaccination status, that you wear a mask, yes. We are requiring -- or not requiring, but strongly recommending it at this time.

CHAIR DREW: Unfortunately, things have changed since July 1st when we thought they were going to continue to open.

MS. GALBRAITH: Yeah, they sure have. And we have our -- reduced the size of our tour groups in half, so...

CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Thank you for what
MS. GALBRAITH: Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Now, Chehalis Generation Facility, Mr. Miller?

MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, Councilmembers, and Staff. I apologize for being late, I was just getting off another call.

I do have one nonroutine comment to add, and -- and I talked briefly with Staff about water purchase for electric generation purposes here at the Chehalis Generation Facility. Our EFSEC permit conditions require that we constrain or limit those purchases when the Chehalis River flow as measured at the USGS Grand Mound Monitoring Station reaches 165 cubit feet per second or less.

Now, we ceased purchasing water from them in early July, July 8, and then the USGS recalibrated their equipment and it changed that we could have been taking water, but that was the last -- you know, that is the information that we're required to -- to follow is that information from the monitoring station.

And then the river flow as of today is still around 111 cubic feet per second. So we still haven't purchased water for the month of July and then now almost three quarters, so two-thirds of the way through
the month of August.

So our water supply that we maintain on site is -- is going to hopefully get us by so we have some good rain in the Chehalis River Basin because it is a stream -- or it's a rain-fed and -- and the system is not a snow melt system. And so we are getting kind of close and we -- we hopefully will get some rain soon. I know the impacts for the West in general are significant that surprisingly, for us here in Southwest Washington, it is impacting us as well.

So we're still generating around the clock. We still have water reserve on hand, and we're just looking forward to some rain.

CHAIR DREW: So thank you for that more detailed report, because I was -- I did want to ask you a question about that. Have you ever been in this situation and what happens if you do reach a point where you need water but can't draw from the river? Or from the -- I'm sorry, not from the river, but purchase from the City of Chehalis?

MR. MILLER: So we have had periods of time in the last eight years where we have not been able to purchase water from the City of Chehalis. The City of Chehalis takes their water from the north fork of the Newaukum River, which is a tributary to the Chehalis.
And we've gone, you know, maybe three weeks, but this is the longest stretch, you know, since the plant was built where we have not taken water.

And that's why in the original permit, the amount of water storage that was built on site was why it was built, some of those reasons. And also why we imply the use of air-cooled condensers versus the evaporative cooling that typical thermal generating facilities would have.

So our facility, you know, was built more for inherent region, and people sometimes are confused by that. But the primary purpose of that was to manage, you know, water taken from the Chehalis, which impacted the salmonoid species and -- and other, you know, concerns that -- that were discussed and reviewed when the permit was first issued.

It's quite a bit different than the permit that's -- that was originally for the Satsop Washington Public Power Supply Nuclear Station, where they have the large, evaporative cooling towers there and the rainy wells, et cetera. And I believe that they use evaporative cooling down there for combined cycle plants. But our permit is definitely more constrained than what you can take from, you know, ultimately goes into the Chehalis River.
The City of Chehalis has adequate water supply, they could sell us more, but our permit is very specific that when the river flow at Grand Mound reaches 165 cubic feet per second, we can no longer purchase water.

And I kind of started some conversations with the EFSEC Staff. You know, there may be interest by the company and EFSEC to, you know, look at alternate gauging systems and maybe could be more reflective of, you know, what's available in the basin and for the City of Chehalis. You know, we are, I believe, the second largest consumer of water from the City, and I think National Frozen Foods, which is a seasonal operation where they harvest the peas and corn and wash them and freeze them locally.

So we're a big user and big customer for the City, but we've also managed to pretty -- pretty well our use of water with, you know, these air cool condensers. We manage our leaks and -- our leaks in the heat recovery steam generators the best we can doing tube repairs. We've had a couple short outages that we took early this summer to make sure that we weren't consuming more water than, you know, what the original designs called for.

So we're being very efficient, it's -- the
best we can within -- what's starting to age of the thermal combined cycle plant.

That was wordy.

CHAIR DREW: No, I appreciate this whole explanation and discussion, because in reading your report, you know, those were the questions that came to my mind.

Councilmembers, are there any other questions or comments?

Thank you, Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Moving on to Grays Harbor Energy Center, Mr. Sherin?

MR. SHERIN: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, Councilmembers, EFSEC Staff. Chris Sherin, the plant manager at Grays Harbor Energy Center. For the month -- reporting period of July, I have no nonroutine items to report.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Columbia Generating Station and Washington Nuclear Project 1/4, Mr. Schmitt.

MR. SCHMITT: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, EFSEC Councilmembers, and Staff. This is Marshall Schmitt reporting for Energy Northwest. I only have a few items for the month of July.
First, I would like to point out our quarterly environmental compliance audit was completed July 21st. Our next audit is scheduled for October 2021.

Second, we have submitted our proposed minor revisions to the Columbia Generating Station Groundwater Quality Assurance Project Plan, and we have requested EFSEC approval of those revisions by October 31st, 2021, if at all possible.

Finally, I have an organizational note to make. The Energy Northwest executive board has named Robert Schuetz as the new agency CEO. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Mr. Schuetz was the site vice president.

That is all that I have to report.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Are there any questions from Councilmembers?

Moving on to the Columbia Solar Projects, Mr. Hurd?

MR. HURD: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, Councilmembers, and EFSEC Staff. This is Owen Hurd from TUUSSO Energy reporting on the Columbia Solar Projects.

The status that were completed to date, we've completed driving piles on Penstemon, the first of the three projects, and completed our medium voltage underground
work. Puget Sound Energy has also recently begun work upon point of interconnection.

From the second project, Camas, pile driving is now underway and equipment area pads are also in progress.

On Urtica, we've completed our construction surveys for wrapping up the final pieces of those, and working on underground work present.

So environmental compliance, Golder was out on site for inspection today, and Golder and Northwest Code Inspections are ongoing with no issues to report.

Safety compliance, we're having our daily safety tailgate meetings. And wildfire smoke and high heat has been an issue recently. We have N-95 masks on site and we're taking additional water breaks based on different heat levels.

Changes that are upcoming, we will continue to work on the planting plans, and the torque tubes are just now arriving, so that will be the next stage of the racking.

That's all I have to report.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Are there questions from Councilmembers?

Thank you.

Next item on our agenda is -- are we talking
about the public informational?

MR. OVERTON: Yes, Chair Drew. This is Kyle Overton --

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

MR. OVERTON: -- site specialist for Columbia Solar. I'll provide an update on the SCA amendment request.

So on July 28th, EFSEC received a request to amend five of the site certificate agreements for the Columbia Solar Projects. The request is for terminating the agreements for the Typha and Fumaria sites and transferring ownership of the Camas, Penstemon, and Fumaria sites.

Additionally, a request was received to transfer overall control of the project from TUUSSO Energy to Greenbacker Renewable Energy.

Per WAC 463-66-100, the transfer of an SCA requires a public informational meeting to be held, which is scheduled for this evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Details on the meeting were provided via our mailing list, the local paper, which is the Daily Record, and is available on our website.

The current certificate holder will be presenting an overview of the request, and EFSEC Staff will be speaking to the amendment process during the
meeting, and then time will be provided at the end of
the meeting for the public to make comment. And our
online comment database will also be opened for the
duration of the meeting as well.

Are there any questions?

CHAIR DREW: Is the comment database that
will be opened later or is it open now?

MR. OVERTON: I believe it starts at 5:00
p.m., but I think Joan might be able to speak to that.

MS. OWENS: That's correct. It starts at
5:00 p.m.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. So it's open during the
time of the public meeting?

MS. OWENS: That's correct.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

So there will be presentations and those
will also be then posted on our website should anyone
want to look at those at a later date?

MR. OVERTON: Correct.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Yeah. But anyone who is
interested is welcome to join us at 5 o'clock today and
to make comments about the amendment, which includes
eliminating the -- dropping the two sites and also
change of ownership. So we do welcome participation.

Thank you, Mr. Overton.
MR. OVERTON: Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Desert Claim Project update,

Ms. Moon?

MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Council Chair Drew and Councilmembers. For the record, this is Amy Moon providing an update on the Desert Claim Project. EFSEC Staff continue to coordinate with Desert Claim; however, currently there are no project updates.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

And now we move to Horse Heaven Wind Farm,

Ms. Moon.

MS. MOON: All right. Thank you again.

Good afternoon, Chair Drew, Councilmembers, on the new project, Horse Heaven. This is Amy Moon again. EFSEC Staff continue to work with the applicant and our contractor, Golder, on data requests. The response to Data Request No. 2 was received on August 16th and is under review. Data Request No. 3 was submitted to the applicant July 22nd and a response is due August 23rd.

This request asks for information and clarification on noise, wildlife, and recreation. The data requests inform the SEPA scoping process and, again, SEPA is the State Environmental Policy Act. So the data requests inform the SEPA scoping process as well as preparation of the draft environmental impact
statement, which is also known as an EIS.

Part of the data gathering effort has included meetings with EFSEC, EFSEC SEPA contractor, which is Golder, and the applicant to discuss and clarify each data request.

The responses to the three data requests are an important part of preparing the draft EIS as they can close information gaps as well as provide integral information on the project proposal and alternative analysis.

A site visit to the project area was conducted on July 23rd with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, or WDFW. The applicant, EFSEC, and EFSEC contractor, Golder, participated in the site visit. The site visit was conducted at the request of Fish and Wildlife to assist in their review of the project proposal. The site visit included potential wildlife corridors, examples of existing wildlife habitat such as shrub step, grassland, and habitat for species of concern, as well as canyons and proposed utility crossings.

EFSEC continues their work on SEPA scoping and will prepare a recommendation to the EFSEC SEPA responsible official on resource topics to be considered in the draft environmental impact statement. The
scoping decision by the SEPA responsible official will inform the overall project schedule development.

Information received in the application, responses to data requests, public comments during the SEPA scoping comment period, and agency comments are being used to prepare the recommendation to the EFSEC SEPA responsible official. And once the scope is determined, the draft EIS, also known as the DEIS, will be prepared.

As stated in the July 20, 2021 Council update, Staff are anticipating a 30-day public comment period for the DEIS. Additionally, Staff are coordinating with Judge Torem to schedule the next steps for an adjudicative process.

Does the Council have any questions?

CHAIR DREW: A couple of questions I have. First of all, you mentioned the data requests. Those -- are those available for the public to see?

MS. MOON: Yes, those are on the EFSEC Horse Heaven Wind Project for the public to see. You go to the tab that's for SEPA, I believe, and they're on there. So the -- the request submittals are there as well as the response to Data Request 1 and the response to Data Request 2.

CHAIR DREW: So I know it's -- it's
challenging for people who are interested in the project
to follow along a little bit, but that is one way to
follow along because there's a period of time here where
we really have to delve into all the questions that the
public has raised and the information in the application
in order to prepare draft EIS so the public can comment
on.

So all of that work is going on, but one way
the public can follow it is through the data requests,
and then we will have more information when the
SEPA-responsible official, which is Ms. Bumpus, makes a
determination of -- of the information that we'll be
requiring in the draft EIS.

Did I misstate anything there, Ms. Moon?

MS. MOON: Well, for what Sonia Bumpus will
be doing is determining the resource topics that are
going to go into depth in the draft EIS.

CHAIR DREW: Okay.

MS. MOON: And the data request certainly
will give an indication of what those topics are most
likely to be.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. That is very helpful.

And let's see, did I have any other questions?

Are there questions from Councilmembers?

MR. LIVINGSTON: Chair Drew, this is Mike
LIVINGSTON.

CHAIR DREW: Yes, go ahead.

MR. LIVINGSTON: I don't have a question, I just want to thank and say I appreciate the opportunity that's been provided by EFSEC Staff and the project proponent for WDFW staff to get out there. There's a -- you know, this is a very large project and there's lots of considerations to be analyzed, particularly related to wildlife and habitat corridors. So really appreciate that opportunity that that was provided to the Staff and just wanted to acknowledge that. So thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Thank you, yes, there is a lot of work behind the scenes that's difficult for people to see as -- as they follow along with this.

The other comment I wanted to make is we talk about the adjudication, which won't take place until after we receive the draft EIS; is that correct, Ms. Moon?

MS. MOON: So I'm going to have to defer to Ami Hafkemeyer on adjudication, because to -- to be very telling, I have not gone through that process as an EFSEC Staff member, but -- but Ami has, and she's been very involved in setting that up.

CHAIR DREW: Okay.
MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you, Chair Drew and Ms. Moon.

We are currently working with Judge Torem to set a schedule and put a plan in place for the adjudicative process. And based on past experience, we found that it is most helpful for parties to the adjudication and the Council for the adjudication to occur after the draft EIS has come out. And so that is our intent, but there are activities that need to take place prior to the adjudication, and so we are working on scheduling those activities as well with Judge Torem.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. That, I think, helps explain the -- the process we're in and hopefully for members of the public. At this point, we don't plan to have a public meeting in person in the Tri-Cities, but I think that we very much want to do that. But the appropriate time for us really will be to hear comments on the draft EIS.

So that's really what we're -- we're looking towards is during the period of time that there is comment on the draft EIS would be the most productive time to have a meeting in person in the community, and we hope very much that the condition of the pandemic improves so we can do that as well. But that's what we're anticipating.
So I know there have been questions about that in terms of why we haven't had a public meeting yet. Certainly it's been because of the -- the COVID issues, and we do expect to do that as part of the review of the draft EIS, to have that -- a public comment period in -- in the community. So that is our current -- the way we're currently looking at it.

Are there any comments or questions from Councilmembers?

The question came in from the public is when does that draft EIS? It won't be for a few months because we have yet to complete the final scoping of the document and then the areas we want thorough review in the different areas that will be the subject of the EIS. So that will take a few months. So it will be after that period of time when the draft EIS -- and we'll have -- each meeting we should get more information about when -- that -- to confirm that in the schedule as -- as we know the amount of work that needs to be done for the EIS.

Ms. Bumpus, is there anything you want to add or hopefully I've gotten that pretty correct?

MS. BUMPUS: I would just -- I think I would just add that -- or reiterate, rather, that, yeah, the -- the point, Chair Drew, about as we get more
information about what we need to do in the draft EIS, the -- the prospective schedule will start to jell, it will start to take shape, and we will have a better idea over the next several weeks about what that timeframe will look like.

CHAIR DREW: So thank you. Thank you for all of the people who are interested in this project and are following it, and we will keep you posted.

Okay. Moving on to Goose Prairie Solar Project update.

MR. OVERTON: Thank you. Yeah, this is Kyle Overton, the site specialist for the Goose Prairie Project again. Before I get into Goose Prairie, I did have a correction from my Columbia Solar update.

The request for transferring of the SCAs was for the Camas, Penstemon, and Urtica sites. I said that Fumaria is one of them. It was Urtica.

CHAIR DREW: Oh. Thank you.

MR. OVERTON: Yeah. So let's get that out of the way. For Goose Prairie, during the August 6th special Council meeting, the Council voted to approve the January 21st application for expedited processing for the Goose Prairie Solar Project. So at this time, the Staff are coordinating with our AG, Jon Thompson, in preparation of holding a public comment period and
meeting, which we are anticipating to have scheduled before the September Council meeting.

Staff are also in the review of the application materials and are in the early stages of developing a draft recommendation for the Council's review. And that's -- that's kind of where we're at at this point. Are there any questions?

CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions from the Councilmembers about the Goose Prairie Solar Project?

Hearing none, we will expect to hear further from you about the scheduling of the public comment period and public meeting, then.

MR. OVERTON: Yes, will do. Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thanks.

That concludes our agenda for today's meeting. Again, we will have the public informational meeting on the Columbia Solar Site Certification Amendment -- Agreement Amendment at 5:00 p.m. today. For those of you who are interested, please join us then. Our meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

(Adjourned at 2:05 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358